

STUDENT MASTER

Water Quality Playing Cards

Cut out the playing cards on the next two pages. Write students' ideas on the blank cards.

Increase Water Quality**Decrease Water Quality**

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| People can keep a trash bag in their car to dispose of litter properly. | People throw trash from their cars as they travel along roads. This trash washes into streams during heavy rains. |
| Cattle owners should fence off creeks or streams that flow across their property to keep cows out of the water. | Cows that have access to a stream or creek pollute the water with their excrement. |
| Homeowners should read and follow lawn care product (fertilizer & pesticides) labels carefully. | Overuse of lawn care products cause water quality problems when rain washes pesticides and fertilizers into storm drains. |
| Septic tanks should be checked and pumped out every three years to ensure they are functioning properly. | Failing septic tanks leak sewage into groundwater and nearby streams. |
| Planting crops on the contours of the land helps prevent soil erosion. | Erosion from improperly plowed cropland can flow into nearby streams. |

| Increase Water Quality | Decrease Water Quality |
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| Sediment fences help stop sediment from entering waterways around construction sites. | During heavy rains, sediment runs into streams from construction sites. |
| Strips of vegetation should be left along creeks and streams to help prevent erosion when forests are cut by timber companies. | Clear-cutting forests along waterways without leaving vegetation along the edges causes sedimentation of streams. |
| School groups or clubs can stencil storm drains to inform the public not to pour oil, grass clippings or leaves down the drains. This will make people aware that the drain leads to a larger body of water such as the bay. | People often throw grass clippings and leaves into storm drains, which carry both water and grass clippings to streams, rivers, and bays. The rotting plant material uses dissolved oxygen in the water causing fish kills. |
| Students and civic organizations can “Adopt a Stream” and pick up trash from along the stream banks and bridge crossings. | People often use overpasses along streams and rivers as dumpsites for waste. |
| People who smoke can dispose of used cigarettes in proper waste receptacles. | Cigarette butts are not biodegradable. People throw them into the water where birds and other animals mistake them for food. |
| Many marinas provide pump out stations for boaters allowing sewage to be properly contained in a holding tank until it is taken to a sewage treatment plant. | Cargo ships and boats dump tons of garbage into the world’s oceans each year. |

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Boaters should be careful when adding fuel or oil to their boats so spills do not pollute the water.

Oil and fuel can leak from improperly cared for boats, thus polluting waterways.